

Grenada Combat Operations

25 October–2 November 1983

OPERATION URGENT FURY

The mission of Operation Urgent Fury, as stated by Admiral Wesley L. McDonald, while testifying before the Senate Committee on Armed Services on 3 November 1983, was to “protect and/or evacuate American citizens, to provide stability for the area, and at the invitation of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, to help establish a government which would be more democratic in nature than the existing government which had taken over rather rigorously and had placed the country into complete isolation for a period of four days.” Admiral McDonald was Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command, during the Grenada operations.

The following is a list of Naval Aviation forces (does not include all Marine Corps aviation) participating in the Grenada operations:

Carriers

Independence (CV 62) with CVW-6 (Tail Code AE)

<i>Squadron</i>	<i>Aircraft</i>
VA-87	A-7E
VA-15	A-7E
VA-176	A-6E and KA-6D
VF-32	F-14A
VF-14	F-14A
VAW-122	E-2C
VAQ-131	EA-6B
VS-28	S-3A
HS-15	SH-3H

Guam (LPH 9) (Tail Code for HMM-261 was EM)

HMM-261 AH-1T and CH-53D

Saipan (LHA 2) (1-7 November 1983)

Saipan provided seaborne security, surveillance operations, communications and medical support during the operation. It did not have a deployed Marine Corps squadron aboard.

Non-Carrier Based Squadrons

<i>Squadron</i>	<i>Aircraft</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>
VP-10	P-3C	LD
VP-16	P-3C	LF
VP-23	P-3C	LJ
HSL-34 Dets	SH-2F	HX
HSL-32 Dets	SH-2F	HV

HSL-32 Detachments provided support for the Grenada operations between 30 October to 8 December, but were not involved in flying combat missions.

VR-56	C-9B	JU
VR-58	C-9B	JV
VR-59	C-9B	RY
VRC-40	C-1A	JK

Transport squadrons were used to provide support for units operating in Grenada, but were not involved in flying combat missions.

Operations by CVW-6 Aircraft

CVW-6 aircraft embarked on *Independence* flew SAR (Search and Rescue), MEDEVAC (Medical Evacuation), CAP (Combat Air Patrol), reconnaissance, close air support and SSSC (Surface, Sub-surface Search Coordination) missions.

Attack squadrons conducted daily surgical bombing missions (close air support) to quell enemy resistance, as well as reconnaissance missions. The following is a list of their activities:

VA-15 flew 143 combat sorties during Operation Urgent Fury.

VA-176 flew 350 combat flight hours during Operational Urgent Fury (the number of combat sorties is not listed).

VA-87 flew close air support combat missions during Operation Urgent Fury. The specific number of combat sorties was not identified.

HS-15 flew Combat SAR missions under enemy fire and were also used to drop leaflets over the central portion of the island. The squadron flew 97 sorties during Operation Urgent Fury.

Fighter squadrons flew CAP (Combat Air Patrol), reconnaissance and photographic missions over the island using the TARPS (Tactical Air Reconnaissance Pod System). VF-32 aircraft participated in the TARPS evolution. Fighter squadron activities were as follows: 256 combat sorties flown by VF-32 in 1983 (includes sorties in Grenada and Lebanon, with no break down on how many for each operation) and 82

combat sorties flown during Operation Urgent Fury by VF-14.

VAQ-131 flew electronic surveillance missions in support of Operation Urgent Fury, specific number of combat sorties not identified.

VS-28: Combat sorties unknown.

VAW-122: Combat sorties unknown.

The Navy did not lose any aircraft or aviation personnel to combat action during Operation Urgent Fury. However, several Marine Corps and Army helicopters were shot down by antiaircraft batteries and personnel lost to combat action.